AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5 and ending on page 8, line 22 with the following:

The standard detection techniques are then carried out as described in Figures 1-5. Figure 6 is a special application in which detection is accomplished without the interference of any immobilizing matrix or reaction vessel wall. This special detection system eliminates any background emission from materials other than the tag, and hence it is more sensitive than the matrix dependent method. By lowering the background to near zero, the measurements are more accurate and precise since they do not depend on the quality of materials used in the production of disposable tips. The results are expressed in positive values rather than the negative correlations seen in competitive radioimmunassays (RIA's). In a competitive RIA system, the amount of radioactive label seen or counted decreases as the target molecule being detected increases. In the Near Infrared Molecular Assay (NIRMA) ~~(NIMRA)~~ of the present invention, an increase in level or concentration of the target molecule directly corresponds to an increase of dye, and hence an increase in light emission.